

**REMARKS**

Claims 14-21 are pending herein. Claims 22 and 23 have been canceled hereby.

1. Examiner Tran is thanked for courtesies extended during several telephonic interviews in March, April and May relating to the present application, the substance of which has been incorporated into the following remarks.

2. Claims 14, 18, 22 and 23 were objected to. Applicant submits that the amendments herein to the present claims overcome this rejection.

3. Claims 14-23 were rejected under §103 over Sibley. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

As discussed during the several telephonic interviews, the claims have been amended herein to define more clearly the nature of the arcuate and concave contour of the lower portion of the wafer boat. More particularly, the frame of reference has now been fixed with respect to the wafer boat itself, rather than the wafers. Accordingly, it is quite clear that the concave contour of the lower portion is set forth from a frame of reference along an inner radius extending from the center point of the wafer boat. In contrast, turning to Sibley, the lower portion of the wafer boat shown in FIG. 5 clearly has a convex contour as viewed from the center point (clearly shown in FIG. 5). There is no disclosure or suggestion of a concave contour as presently claimed.

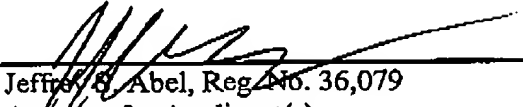
For at least the foregoing reasons as discussed during the several telephonic interviews with Applicant's undersigned representative, Applicant respectfully submits that the presently claimed invention would not have been obvious over Sibley. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection over Sibley are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by the Applicant would be desirable for placing this application in even better condition for issue, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 50-2469.

Respectfully submitted,

6/4/04  
Date

  
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